

The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

March 31, 2008

Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Chairman
Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

SUBJECT: HB 1332, defining "hauler" of solid waste and requiring haulers to register with the department of environmental services, and relative to the weight and measurement of solid waste.

Dear Chairman Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1332. This legislation seeks to establish a registration program for commercial solid waste recyclers and haulers. The bill also requires commercial haulers to report on the quantity, source and destination of solid waste and recyclables collected in the state. The Department of Environmental Services (Department) favors passage of this legislation because it will allow the department to obtain more complete information on the commercial portion of the solid waste industry in New Hampshire and help us to understand the effects of imports and recycling. The Department currently has legislative authority to obtain this information from municipal solid waste facilities and commercial facilities that hold a solid waste permit. This bill extends that authority to commercial solid waste transporters.

Nationally, solid waste is a \$52 billion a year industry. In New Hampshire alone, it represents approximately \$250 million in disposal costs and employs over 4000 people. Information obtained from annual facility reports submitted to the Department and annual reports published by municipalities shows that municipal line item budgets for solid waste disposal in New Hampshire collectively exceed \$100 million. The remaining \$150 million is the estimated cost of disposal of commercial waste and construction and demolition debris.

The Department does not intend to create regulations for haulers. Our intent is merely to require yearly registration and yearly reporting. No fees will be imposed on the haulers to register. Registration information will only require submission of the name of the business, a mailing address and phone number and the name of a contact person. Reporting will be limited to information about the type of material; general source of the collected material, including the municipality in which the material was generated; the quantity of the specific material; and the destination. The Department seeks to understand the flow of solid waste and recyclables within the state in order to develop

DES Web site: www.des.nh.gov

P.O. Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Telephone: (603) 271-2925 • Fax: (603) 271-2456 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

HB 1332


March 31, 2008

Page 2

long range plans for recycling and disposal facilities and to target resources to increase the recycling rate for the state.

The Department encourages passage of HB 1332. If you have any questions regarding this letter of testimony, please do not hesitate to call Mike Wimsatt, Waste Management Division Director, at 271-2905, or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,


Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Committee Members
Michael J. Wimsatt, P.G., Director, Waste Management Division